

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/18364

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16H 27/02
US CL : 74/89.42, 89.23, 412R, 424.71, 441

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 74/89.42, 89.23, 412R, 424.71, 441

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 4,249,426 A (Erikson et al.) 10 February 1981 (10.02.1981), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 2,715,341 A (Hogan) 16 August 1955 (16.08.1955), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 4,131,031 A (Erikson et al.) 26 December 1978 (26.12.1978), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 4,679,457 A (Nishikawa et al.) 14 July 1987 (14.07.1987), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 4,753,122 A (Nishikawa et al.) 28 June 1988 (28.06.1988), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 5,839,321 A (Siemons) 24 November 1998 (24.11.1998), see all. | 1-24 |
| A | US 6,240,798 B1 (Erikson et al.) 05 June 2001 (05.06.2001), see all. | 1-24 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"I"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 May 2005 (30.05.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 SEP 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No.

Authorized officer

Thomas Hannon

Telephone No. (571) 272-7104